

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SAL-01 RSR-01 SY-07 COA-02 SCI-06 /220 W
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R 291934 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5160

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 2043/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S WORLD TOUR

REF: MEXICO 1099

SUMMARY: LIC. LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND AN OFFICIAL PARTY OF NINE PERSONS WILL MAKE A 29-DAY JOURNEY TO CANADA, GREAT BRITAIN, BELGIUM, FRANCE, THE USSR, AND THE PRC BEGINNING MARCH 29, 1973. DURING THE "WORKING" VISIT, THE PRESIDENT WILL CONFER WITH THE HEADS OF STATE OF THESE SIX NATIONS, VISIT INDUSTRIES AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, AND GIVE PERIODIC PRESS CONFERENCES. LEA'S TRIP HAS ALREADY RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY IN MEXICO; MEXICAN RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS AND NEWSPAPERS WILL
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CONTINUE TO GIVE SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE TO THE PRESIDENT' S TRAVEL. LEA HOPES TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF MEXICO AS A LEADER OF AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE THIRD WORLD; TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR SUCH MEXICAN INITIATIVES AS THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, AND THE GRANT OF A SEAT ON THE UNSC WITH VETO POWER TO A THIRD WORLD NATION; TO INCREASE MEXICAN EXPORTS AND TO DIVERISFY MEXICAN IMPORTS, THEREBY LESSENING MEXICO' S ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE UPON THE U. S. TO NEGOTIATE TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS; AND TO IMPROVE HIS STANDING AMONG POLITICAL LEFTISTS AT HOME BY FOCUSING THEIR ATTENTION UPON HIS " REVOLUTIONARY" AND NATIONALISTIC FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES.

1. THE OFFICIAL PARTY OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IS: HIS WIFE, MARIA ESTER ZUNO DE ECHEVERRIA; SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, EMILIO RABASA, AND HIS WIFE; THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE, ALFONSO GUZMAN NEYRA; THE HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL JESUS CASTANEDA GUTIERREZ; THE SUBSECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, LIC. ELISEO MENDOZA BERRUETO; THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROTOCOL, AMBASSADOR JOAQUIN BERNAL; AND THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH LEA WILL VISIT. A SOURCE IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT LEA SUDDENLY DROPPED THE SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CARLOS TORRES MANZO IN FAVOR OF MENDOZA BERRUETO, FOR REASONS NOT YET APPARENT. THE PRESIDENT' S DAUGHTER, MARIA ESTER ECHEVERRIA DE DESVIGNES, AND HER HUSBAND WILL JOIN THE OFFICIAL PARTY ONLY IN GREAT BRITAIN. THE UNOFFICIAL PARTY ACCOMPANYING LEA NUMBERS ABOUT 80 AND INCLUDES MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL TELEVISION, DIRECTORS OF VARIOUS DECENTRALIZED GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR AND OF PRIVATE BUSINESS, AND VARIOUS WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS. MEMBERS OF UNOFFICIAL PARTY WILL NOT ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT TO ALL NATIONS ON HIS ITINERARY, WHICH IS:

A. MARCH 29 TO APRIL 2: CANADA, INCLUDING OTTAWA, TORONTO, AND MONTREAL. WHILE THERE, LEA WILL CONFER TWICE WITH PRIMIE MINSTER TRUDEAU AND WILL BE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CHIEF- OF- STATE TO ADDRESS CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

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B. APRIL 2 TO APRIL 6: GREAT BRITAIN. QUEEN ELIZABETH AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH WILL HOST OFFICIAL RECEPTION AND PRIVATE DINNER FOR LEA AT WINDSOR CASTLE. MEXICAN PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY WILL DON FORMAL ATTIRE ONLY ON THESE TWO OCCASIONS; THEY HAVE OTHERWISE REFUSED TO DO SO TO EMPHASIZE "WORKING" NATURE OF THEIR VISIT. LEA WILL CONFER WITH PRIME MINISTER EDWARD HEATH AND WILL GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE.

C. APRIL 6 TO APRIL 9: BELGIUM, INCLUDING BRUSSELS, ANTWERP, NAMUR, GHENT, AND BRUGES. KING AND QUEEN OF BELGIUM WILL HOST RECEPTION FOR LEA AND HIS PARTY AT AIRPORT AND WILL ENTERTAIN THEM TWICE AT DINNER. BELGIUM PRIME MINISTER WILL HOST LUNCH FOR LEA. PRIME MINISTER AND HIS CABINET WILL RECEIVE MEXICAN PRESIDENT. LEA WILL ALSO CONFER WITH PRESIDENT OF COMMISSION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND WITH DIRECTORS OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. HE WILL OFFER PRESS CONFERENCE AT SITE OF EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.

D. APRIL 9 TO APRIL 12: FRANCE. PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU WILL RECEIVE LEA AND HIS PARTY AT ORLY AIRPORT; THEY WILL CONFER PRIVATELY TWICE DURING VISIT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 2043/2

2. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OBVIOUSLY HOPES TO IMPROVE MEXICO' S IMAGE AS LEADER OF THIRD WORLD DURING HIS TRIP. HIS GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNIZED BARBADOS, GUYANA, AND TANZANIA, INDICATING ITS INTEREST IN BROADENING TIES WITH THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD; AND PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ROMANIA, INDICATING ITS INTEREST IN BROADENING TIES WITH COMMUNIST WORLD. RECOGNITION OF THESE NATIONS REFLECTS LEA' S ANALYSIS OF THE NEW, POST WORLD WAR II WORLD, WHICH HE PRESENTED IN COMPLETE FORM IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE MEXICAN CONGRESS REQUESTING ITS PERMISSION TO MAKE HIS WORLD JOURNEY (REFTEL). IN ACCORD WITH THIS ANALYSIS, LEA WILL ATTEMPT TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF EACH OF HIS HOST COUNTRIES FOR SUCH MEXICAN INITIATIVES AS THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, THE PROPOSAL TO GRANT A SEAT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH VETO POWER TO A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY OR

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COUNTRIES, AND THE CONCEPT OF THE PATRIMONIAL SEA OF TWO HUNDRED MILES. HE WILL STRIVE TO GAIN THE FORMAL ADHERENCE OF FRANCE, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE PRC TO PROTOCOLS I AND/ OR II OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO.

3. ANOTHER REASON FOR LEA' S TRIP IS THE GOM' S DESIRE TO INCREASE MEXICAN EXPORTS AND TO DIVERSIFY THE SOURCES OF MEXICAN IMPORTS, E. G., TO LESSEN MEXICO' S ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE UPON THE UNITED STATES. THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES IS AN INDIRECT ADDRESS TO THIS PROBLEM. THE MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE RECENTLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LEA' S JOURNEY TO IMPROVING MEXICO' S ECONOMY. LEA WILL ALSO, WHEN POSSIBLE, CONCLUDE TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

4. LEA HAS SPOKEN ABOUT NEED TO " DEMOCRATIZE" THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN MEXICO, TO ACHIEVE A " DEMOCRATIC OPENING". HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE REPRESSION OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT OF 1968 AND THE DISTURBANCES IN JUNE 1971 TARNISHED HIS IMAGE WITH MEXICAN POLITICAL LEFTISTS AND STUDENTS. HE HAS RECENTLY MADE A STRONG EFFORT TO PACIFY THE STUDENTS BY STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITY AUTOMONY IN THE FACE OF AN OFTEN CHAOTIC SITUATION ON THE UNAM CAMPUS AND ON OTHER UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT MEXICO. ALLENDE' S VISIT HERE LAST YEAR AND MEXICO' S SUPPORT OF PANAMA AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE UNSC WERE PART OF LEA' S EFFORT TO REESTABLISH HIS CREDIBILITY WITH THE LEFT. THE PRESIDENT EXPECTS THAT HIS WORLD TOUR, INCLUDING VISITS TO THE

USSR AND THE PRC, AND INVOLVING A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY AT HOME, WILL HELP DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE DOMESTIC SCENE, HELPING HIM POLITICALLY IN MEXICO.

5. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE CONCLUSION OF A COURTESY CALL BY USUN AMBASSADOR JOHN SCALI ON MARCH 24 . HE NOTED THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE CAPITALIST AND THE SOCIALIST WORLDS, ARE DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES. EACH NATION IS MOST INTERESTED IN ITS OWN SURVIVAL; IT TRIES
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TO DO AS WELL AS POSSIBLE ECONOMICALLY TO ENSURE THIS SURVIVAL, NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS NEIGHBORS. HE CONDEMNED THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968 AS AN EXAMPLE OF INTERVENTION WHICH THE WORLD MUST AVOID TO MAINTAIN PEACE. HE CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS WITH THE U. S. AS EXCELLENT, NOTING THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT IS MUCH BETTER THAN THAT OF U. S. COMPANIES. HE COMMENDED PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HIS ATTITUDE IN THE QUESTION OF SALINITY IN THE MEXICALI VALLEY. FINALLY, LEA SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT MEXICO HAD SUFFICIENT WEIGHT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE UNSC.

6. COMMENT: THE PUBLICITY HERE ATTENDANT UPON LEA' S JOURNEY HAS AROUSED UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS AMONG MANY MEXICANS. THIS TRIP WILL RESULT IN LITTLE OF VALUE TO THE MEXICAN ECONOMY OR TO THE MEXICAN POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE USSR AND THE PRC MAY PAY LIP SERVICE TO THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (THOUGH SOVIET COUNSELOR TOLD US USSR IS VERY WARY OF THIS GAMBIT) AND THE PRC MAY SUPPORT MEXICO ON THE ISSUES OF THE PATRIMONIAL SEA AND A SEAT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE THIRD WORLD; BUT IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE DEVELOPED NATIONS OF CANADA, GREAT BRITAIN, BELGIUM AND FRANCE WILL SUPPORT ANY MEXICO INITIATIVE WHOSE EFFECT IS TO TAKE FROM THE RICH AND TO GIVE TO THE POOR. THEY ARE INTERESTED, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT, IN INCREASING THEIR
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